



PRODUCTION TEAM COMMITMENT STATEMENT

The following outlines expectations of members of the production team. Please read and sign below. If you have any questions, contact Beth.

Between Friends is more than just one person's dream, and though the show will be wildly entertaining, there are world-changing intentions behind this project – intentions that will impact people's lives in positive ways...and likely even help save some lives. Because of the importance of this cause, we require everyone who agrees to invest their time, talent, and resources by taking on responsibilities or roles in this project to be familiar with the "why" behind the "what".

The "Why" behind *Between Friends*

LGBTQ characters are regularly portrayed in entertainment media as unhappy, with a life full of problems which often end in them being killed off. One of the biggest slaps in the face was in 2015 when, on the same day the Supreme Court ruled in favor of marriage equality in the US, a lesbian character on *Grey's Anatomy* cheated on her partner.

Turns out, this trend is nothing new. For over 125 years, writers have used this narrative. Initially, it was a way for gay authors to write about gay characters without coming under fire for breaking laws and social mandates against the "endorsement" of homosexuality. However, the "Bury Your Gays" trope persists today in a time and social context in which it is no longer necessary to give gay characters and stories bad endings in order to be published. And as character after character have been killed off, show fans have started taking notice that this negative trend disproportionately relates to *lesbians and bisexual women*.

Why does this matter? After all, everyone has bad days, and everyone eventually dies. Consider what message this is sending to the teenage girl who is trying to decide if she's going to embrace her sexuality or keep it a shameful secret. Consider what message this is sending to the 35-year-old newly divorced woman who is trying to muster the courage to come out to her friends and family. This trend tells those women that nothing good awaits lesbians; that their life is going to be filled with hurt and disappointment and that being a high functioning, happy individual is impossible if you're a lesbian. And that could not be further from the truth.

Between Friends portrays the truth to members of the LGBTQ community and to the world that it's possible – and very common – to be “different” (to be uniquely yourself) AND have a happy, healthy, high functioning life full of enriching relationships...even if you're a lesbian. As a production team, we are also committed to sharing that truth with the world.

Between Friends is a show about a well accomplished group of friends from LA that lead very different lives. The one thing they have in common is their weekly dinner date. The weekly dinners become a comical therapy session for the women and their hit and miss love lives. Each woman has to learn how to deal with tragedy, being there for each other, and learning that love may have been right in front of them all along.

Commitment

By choosing to join the *Between Friends* production team, I commit to...

- 1) be mindful of the intentions behind this project and allow those intentions to influence how I serve. I will learn what I can about the “Bury Your Gays” trend in media, how it negatively impacts the lives of the LGBTQ community.
- 2) give of my time, influence, and resources to help make this worth-while cause as effective as it can be. I will make my contribution to this project a priority in my life by being present on each conference call. If an unexpected emergency arises, I will give Beth at least a 2-hour notice and provide them any updates regarding your role/responsibilities so those updates can be shared with the team. I am prepared to dedicate a minimum of 3 hours per week to this project.
- 3) doing what I say I will do as best I can. Everyone has unexpected emergencies arise, but I will do my best to make my contribution to this project a priority by limiting delays or failed commitments.
- 4) holding the proprietary information shared during conference calls, chats, emails, and all show resources and information as confidential proprietary information not to be shared with those who don't have a “need to know”. If there is ever a question about what info can/cannot be shared, I will check with Beth before sharing.
- 5) helping the fundraising efforts and promotional efforts by reaching out to my friends, family, social media followers, business connections, and others within my sphere of influence.
- 6) dream big and expand my vision of what can be accomplished in and through this project. (Because anything is possible.)

SIGNATURE

PRINT NAME

DATE SIGNED